

National Policy for Management of Land Resources

***247. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate a national policy for management of the country's land resources with focus on dynamic conservation and sustainable use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage, of country's geographical area that fall under various categories of wasteland; and

(d) by when this policy is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) The Department of Land resources (DoLR) in the Ministry of Rural Development is currently engaged in preparing a draft National Policy for the management of the country's land resources with a focus on dynamic conservation, sustainable use and equitable access, in collaboration with other agencies, including the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad.

The DoLR have recently brought out a "Wastelands Atlas of India 2000" in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, using remote sensing technologies. According to the information contained in the Atlas, 20.17% of the country's total geographical area falls under various categories of Wastelands.

Land being an entry in the State List in the Constitution, the evolution of the proposed Policy will need to be an interactive exercise, to be undertaken over a period of time, in conjunction with the States and other agencies concerned.